Dublin, 2nd of Eighth Mo. 1842

GARRISON MSS.

Dear Friend

Maria W. Chapman

There is no engraving done in Dublin worth speaking of - nor in Edinburgh - nor any where in the three kingdoms except in London. I therefore wrote to our mutual friend Dr Madden who being an abolitionist, and known to thee, and an author by profession, and conversant with booksellers, was I thought the best person to apply to. The result thou wilt see in the enclosed which I thought it best to send as the whole will go for a single postage to Boston, but I fear there is not much chance of meeting thy views even in London. It seems odd enough: Speaking of the matter in both countries Liberty is much more talked of and bespraised in America than in these islands - and if you had skilful artists and designers I suppose all sorts of illustrations of the golden thoughts would swarm as thickly in a pictorial form amongst you as in the clothing of letterpress. I dont even recollect any thing in our annuals & illustrated works likely to suit your views even if knowing of them, there were no difficulty in procuring them for you. The abolition struggle in America is full of incidents which the historical painter might use with great effect - if he added a true sympathy with your glorious efforts to his artistic endowments. I think that in a general way poets painters and the literati generally have false or confined sympathies. Command me in any way, and I will do my best. Portraits of Americans would be better worth than any second hand English illustrations if you could get them. Put in a reduced portrait of Garrison like the published one - or of Wendell Phillips - or John G. Whittier or some well known name amongst you. Good portraits are full of abiding human interest.

Some sundries will I know be ready for the next Boston Bazaar - to what extent I am entirely unable to say. Some of Colver's new organized women have written over to England & talked of your infidelity and infidel meetings for the purpose of stopping the supplies. Any thing that comes from here is a trifle - nothing in itself - but it evinces sympathy and cheers you on in your ~~efforts~~ labours. A great part of the sympathy that we meet with in our efforts here in Dublin comes from across the Atlantic; we are so few and so small. The "dread of Garrison" is a natural dread - all clergy and all sects and all the ~~[illegible]~~ advocates of sect & clergy partake largely of it. Ninety nine out of every hundred of fairly natured dread Garrison - he not only allows them to think, but if they read him he offends their idols & makes them reflect.

Richard Allen had a letter a few days since from W.L.G. He bewails the falling away of the Irish. No wonder. They are there as here led by their priests and demagogues - and who huzza and applaud any thing that either say. I heard that which McGerahan, a priest from New Orleans, defended the slave system a ~~few~~ short time since in the Corn Exchange where O'Connell holds his Repeal meetings, that he was clapped and applauded throughout — not that the people love slavery, but he was a priest — and a priest may pretty securely do and say what he pleases provided it be not very decidedly opposed to the prejudices and wishes of the people. I also heard that when O'Connell in disguised words but ~~no~~ most decidedly protested against his conclusions and refuted his falsehoods, he trembled, whether from rage or fear I did not learn. It is but fair to say that many of the poorer sort (hardly any other go to the Corn Exchange) were well pleased with the dressing McGerahan got. The mass of the people here are desperately ignorant and priest ridden and it is ~~from~~ of this class that the greater numbers of your Irish are made up. They can be easily led to do any thing by those who have access to their confidence — who can terrify their conscience or flatter their vanity or their ambition. The cry for the repeal of the union has no vitality in Ireland except among the mob in Dublin and a few enthusiasts throughout the country who entertain ideas of national independence which there seems little chance of seeing realized — & I don't know how far it would be desirable that they should be. Politics and Political efforts and politicians are full of unsoundness, and void of principle, and slaves of the Tyrant Expediency.

In the last batch of Liberators that came over is an account of a Quaker Meeting at Lynn by Rogers. It is eminently calculated to irritate the self [illegible] members of our society. I have seen very liberal people express themselves greatly scandalized by the conduct of Pillsbury — Foster &c. I confess that until people can be driven to see and act as we do, I don't see the use of breaking up meetings and affronting them in this manner. Friends are frightfully inconsistent both here and in America as are all other high professors every where and of every name. Point out their inconsistency but don't heart scald them if you can help it. Such conduct seems to me to be an unfair interference with personal liberty and the abolitionist who perpetrates it becomes a tyrant. Probably thou canst see the perfect propriety of what I condemn. If so, thou wilt see how far I am unwilling to differ from my dear & honored friend Rogers even in a matter of this kind. It is possible that they look on the disease as an inveterate one, requiring strong remedies. I can see the extent of the evil well enough, but I hate these intensely bitter doses. We have long been looking for H. C. Wright. By your last paper I perceive he is announced to sail some time this month. I had a pleasant letter from Elizabeth Pease a few days ago. She was rejoicing over a likeness she had just received of thy self & of Lucretia Mott. Lucretia's is the decidedly is very like. I expected some copies from Sarah Pugh (who sent them to E.P.) but I am afraid the parcel is gone astray so that I must make up my mind to wait. Isaac T. Hopper sent me lately a copy of Elias Hicks's Journal. I have been amused in looking over it by the extremely small shade of difference between the Orthodox & Heterodox Quakers. I could have read the greater portion of the book, if I had not known the author's name, without ever suspecting that he was "one of those madmen who have made men mad" "Founders of sects and systems." A large majority of theologians spend their time in hairsplitting or in the still more delicate operation of slitting rags of fancy.

oblige me by telling Edmund Quincy that I send Wordsworth a copy of his article on the "Poetry of Slavery" — my brother James sent him another copy from another quarter. I intend to ply him still further with reprints so that he may smart under the influence of our enraged public opinion. I think the most Christian public are more of the Poet's ~~mind~~ way of thinking than of one mind with the daring Philosopher of Dedham. There are few things I read with more gusto than Quincy's articles in the Nonresistant; they are dashing and true.

I have written seven large letters to Garrison of late which I thought admirable — but the doleful neglect in which they have lain has brought me to my senses and I am now one of the meekest & humblest creatures any where.

I have lately had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with Helen & Isabel Jennings of Cork, friends of Remond. They are very bright, cordial & pleasant girls great admirers of Garrison & indefatigable devourers of my store of American letters. Remond himself has a very warm corner in their esteem.

I have been suffering recently all the while of writing this letter from a very bad — — pen, which is a poor spirited & insignificant apology for a bad letter. Tell George Bradburn Collins I remember them as distinctly as if I were looking at them & that I wish them all sorts of health & happiness. Being in the dumps with Garrison I shall say no more about him, except that he is outshone — literally outshone — for I have a new medal of Father Mathew (whom God preserve) over [illegible] the drawing room chimney piece. He [illegible] as we Irish peasants say, keeps the place. I have been for nine weeks "a widow," my wife & family having been so long from home in the county of Clare — 150 miles away. But they will I hope be all back again in a day or so. All accounts of thy husband's health are received with deep interest in our small circle.

AUG 4
42

PAID
AU 26
1842

Henry G. Chapman
Boston
U.S.A.

For M. W. Chapman